

REMARKS

Claims 5 and 13 have been amended. Claims 1, 4, 11, 12, 14-37 and 39-42 have been canceled. Claims 5-10, 13 and 38 are currently pending. Applicant reserves the right to pursue the original and other claims in this and other applications. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration in light of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Applicant gratefully acknowledges the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter in claims 12 and 13. Claim 5 has been amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claim 12. Claim 13 has been amended to be in independent form, including the limitations of previous claims 5 and 11.

Claims 1, 4, 21, 24, 37 and 40 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Kitamura et al. (U.S. Patent No. 7,038,995) ("Kitamura"). This rejection is respectfully traversed; however, in order to expedite prosecution of the application, each of claims 1, 4, 21, 24, 37 and 40 has been canceled. Accordingly, the rejection is moot.

Claims 5, 8-11, 14, 17-20, 25, 28-30, 31, 34-36, 38, 39, 41 and 42 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Ando et al. (U.S. Patent No. 7,142,484) ("Ando"). This rejection is respectfully traversed and reconsideration is respectfully requested.

In order to expedite prosecution of the application, each of claims 11, 14, 17-20, 25, 28-30, 31, 34-36, 39, 41 and 42 has been canceled. Thus, the rejection is moot as to these claims.

Claim 5 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of claims 11 and 12 (which has been indicated to contain allowable subject matter). Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 5 is in condition for allowance. Claims 8-10 and 38 depend from claim 5 and are allowable along with claim 5. Applicant respectfully requests the rejection of claims 5, 8-10 and 38 be withdrawn and the claims allowed.

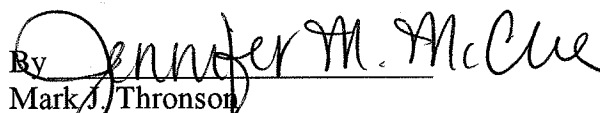
Claims 6, 15, 26 and 32 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ando in view of Kitamura. This rejection is respectfully traversed and reconsideration is respectfully requested. In order to expedite prosecution of the application, each of claims 15, 26 and 32 has been canceled. Thus, the rejection is moot as to these claims. Claim 6 depends from claim 5, which is in condition for allowance for at least the reasons discussed above. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the rejection of claim 6 be withdrawn and the claim allowed.

Claims 7, 16, 27 and 33 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ando in view of Ogasawara et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,859,429) ("Ogasawara"). This rejection is respectfully traversed and reconsideration is respectfully requested. In order to expedite prosecution of the application, each of claims 16, 27 and 33 has been canceled. Thus, the rejection is moot as to these claims. Claim 7 depends from claim 5, which is in condition for allowance for at least the reasons discussed above. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the rejection of claim 7 be withdrawn and the claim allowed.

In view of the above, Applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

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Respectfully submitted,

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